Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 4 Chapter 13

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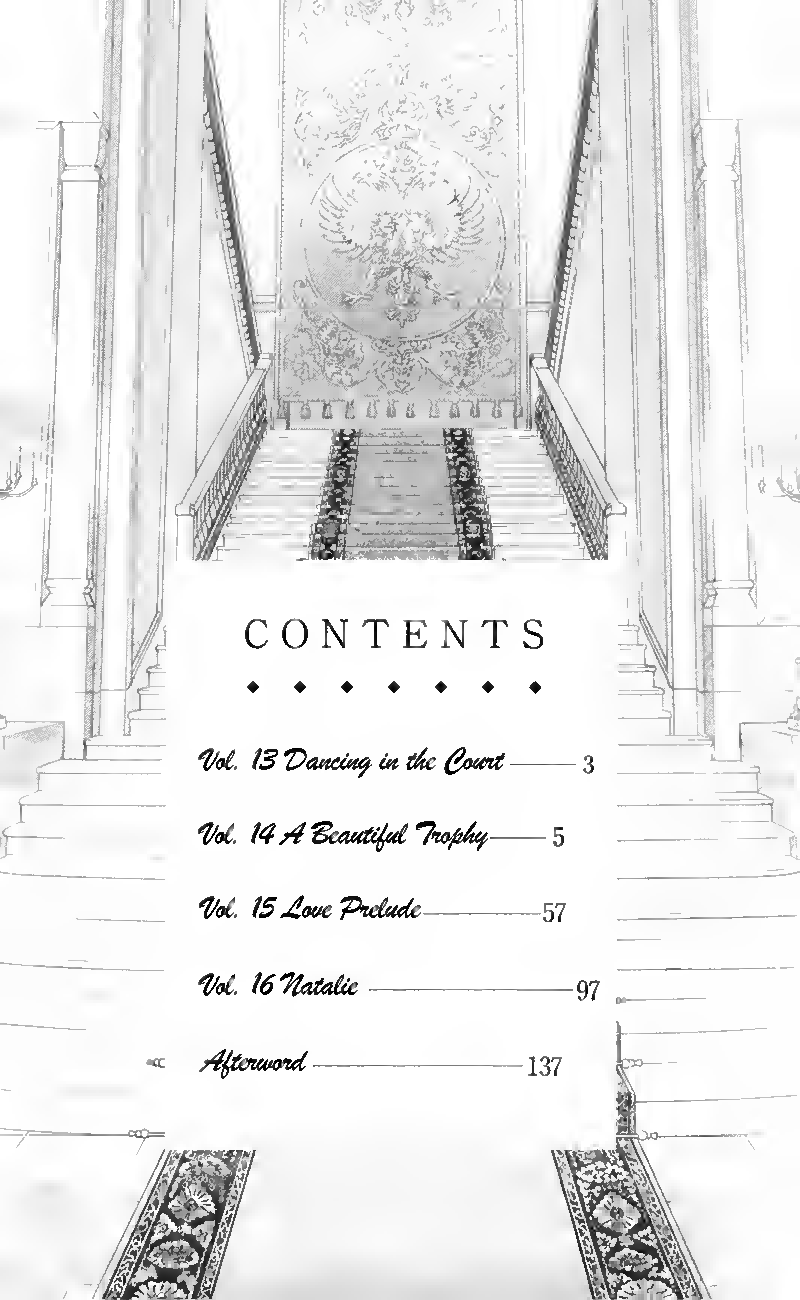
Bronze no Tenshi 4

Chiho Saito

flowersフラワーコミックス



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Vol. 13 Dancing in the Court

青銅の天使

Pushkin's house, August of 1835
IT'S ALREADY 8 O'CLOCK. IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP
IT'S NOT DARK YET
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
Meow
MASHIKA
SASHIKA
DON'T!
WHERE IS PA-PA?
DURING WHITE NIGHTS THERE IS SUNLIGHT AT NIGHT BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S NIGHT TIME
MASHI-KA!!
Dash

MASHIKA
Smile
PAPA!
THERE WAS A MAN THAT LOOKED LIKE A BIRD
MR GOGOL IS A WRITER
PAPA IS BUSY NOW
DON'T DISTURB THE GUESTS
Ow
WHAT A SMART LITTLE GIRL.
AND YOUR WIFE SEEMS TO HAVE A FIRM CHARACTER
SHE GAINED SOME WEIGHT DIDN'T SHE?
THAT'S MY WIFE'S SISTER

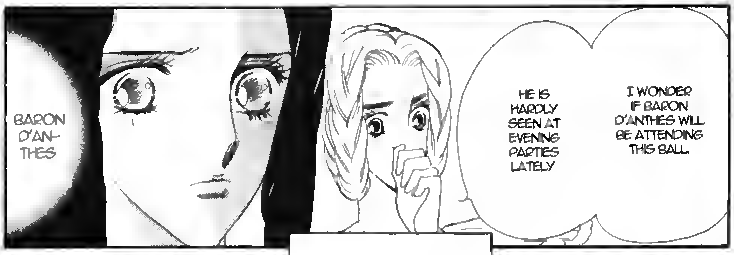
I'M BACK.
WELCOME.
I... I SEE!!
YOUR WIFE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING THE GREATEST BEAUTY OF THE COURT.
EVEN I THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT STRANGE...
SHE HAS LOST SOME WEIGHT, HASN'T SHE?
BUT ISN'T IT A BIT TOO MUCH..?
THAT'S ALSO MY WIFE'S SISTER.
LET'S TALK ABOUT LITERATURE.
OUR FIELD OF EXPERTISE
I DEEPLY RESPECT YOU, MY MENTOR!!
YOU ARE MY GOD!! YOU ARE A GIANT OF LITERATURE!! THE GUIDE OF GREATNESS!!
IF YOU READ THIS, COULD YOU GIVE ME YOUR OPINION?
IF I COULD WRITE MYSELF A WORK AS INTENSE, BEAUTIFUL, NOBLE AND HARMONIOUS AS YOURS
I'M RELYING ON YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING LITERARY WORKS!!
THAT'S WHY, TODAY
He starts a lot.
THIS TIME, COULD YOU SUGGEST SOME IDEAS FOR MY LITERARY SKETCH?
THE THEME THAT YOU SUGGESTED BEFORE WAS TOO EPIC

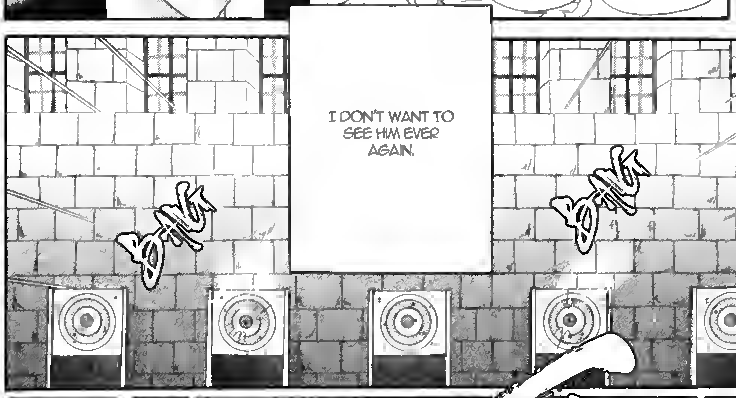
 NOTE THE BASIC IDEA OF GOGOL'S MASTERPIECE "DEAD SOULS" WAS SUGGESTED TO HIM BY PUSHKIN

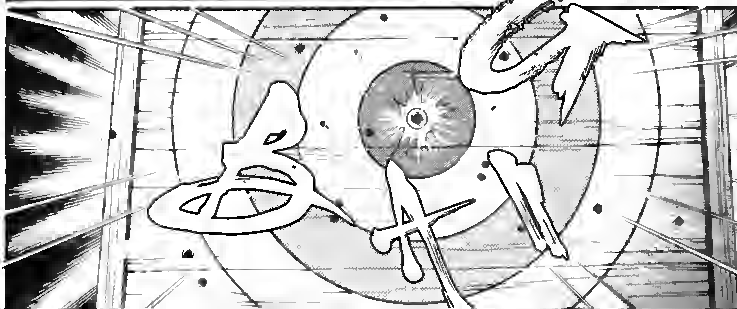
I'M SURE YOU WOULD BE GOOD AT IT
YOU.. SHOULD WRITE A COMEDY
MM... DID I HURT YOUR FEEL-INGS?
Ha Ha Ha
I HAVE SOME NEAT IDEAS FOR A WORK
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
A STORY ABOUT A MERE TRAVELLER WHO IS MISTAKEN FOR A PUBLIC PRO-SECUTOR AND CHEATS A WHOLE TOWN
Nod Nod
I'M SURE A DAY WILL COME WHEN RUSSIAN LITERA-TURE WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE WITH A STRONG PERSO-NALITY LIKE YOU!
YOU ARE YOUR BEST AT PROSE
GOOD LUCK!
SASHA
THERE IS A LETTER FROM BENKENDORF
I'm so happy! I will try my best!

THE LOAN OF 30 000 ROUBLES FROM THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND THE 4 MONTHS FURLOUGH WERE APPROVED.
...
IS IT BAD NEWS?
WHAT IS IT?
PETYA!!
Is there your uncle, this time?
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME
THE DEMAND OF APOLOGY WAS ACCEPTED BUT THIS IS NOT FOR FREE
NATALIA! CAN I GO TO THE NEXT BALL?
IT WILL BE THE FIRST ONE SINCE GRIGORY WAS BORN.
Ow...
I GUESS I CAN'T DECLINE IT
IT S AN ORDER FROM BENKENDORF. HE SAYS TAKING YOU WITH ME WILL BE A EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TOWARDS THE TSAR
THE TSAR REQUESTS TO SEE NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA IN THE NEXT COURT BALL.

LOOK AT ME.
MORE THAN SERVING THE MUSES.
I'M THE TSAR'S SLAVE.


BARON D'ANTHES
I WONDER IF BARON D'ANTHES WILL BE ATTENDING THIS BALL.
HE IS HARDLY SEEN AT EVENING PARTIES LATELY


I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM EVER AGAIN.
BANG
BANG



*THE TROT IS A TWO-BEAT GAIT. HORSE GAITS ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH A HORSE CAN MOVE

I, THE SUPERIOR OFFICER, CAN GUARANTEE IT.
SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES
IS SERIOUSLY BECOMING A ZEALOUS MILITANT. EVEN WE ARE SURPRISED
SINCE THE BEGINNING HE HAS BEEN A MAN OF EXCELLENCE HE IS PROGRESSING FAST
AS HIS GUARDIAN YOU MUST BE SATISFIED,
DUTCH AMBASSADOR MR HEECKEREN
LET'S CALL HIM NOW
BARON,
I WISH THAT YOU ATTEND THE COURT BALL TONIGHT WITHOUT FAIL.
WILL YOU DO IT?

YES
CLOP

NATALIA NIKOLA-EVNA,
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE
I THINK HE IS HAPPY BECAUSE THE COURT'S BEAUTY HAS RETURNED AGAIN.
I'M GRA-TEFUL.
WHAT IS THE GENDER OF YOUR THIRD CHILD? IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?
IT'S A BOY, YOUR MAJES-TY
I'M SURE IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CHILD
MY 7TH CHILD IS A THREE YEAR OLD BOY TOO
SOMEDAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW HIM TO YOU
On tenter-hooks
I'M VERY GRATEFUL, YOUR MA-JESTY
... IT'S AN HONOUR

Laugh
YOUR MAJESTY
IT'S AN HONOUR I DON'T DESERVE
MRS. PUSHKIN HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
SHE IS NOT PROGRESSING,
ON THE CONTRARY, SHE IS REALLY BAD NOW.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
USELESSNESS SEEMS TO BE A HABIT OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN
I HEARD THE COUNT WHO CALLS HIMSELF "THE JUDGE OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN" SAY IT.
IT'S A CHARACTERISTIC OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE.
THE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT STOP ADMIRING YOU SEEMS TO BE UNBEARABLY GOOD.
REALLY?
WE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS AGAIN.

IT SHOULD BE SKILL MORE THAN THE LACK OF IT
THE ENERGY TO KEEP MAKING PROGRESSES IS SOMETHING THAT FASCINATES ME
THOSE ARE AN OLD PERSON'S PREFERENCES
YOU AREN'T AN OLD PERSON YET
BUT I'M TWICE YOUR AGE
THAT'S ENOUGH TO BE YOUR "FATHER", RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO ADOPT YOU

"ADOPT ME"
OF COURSE WE HAVE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
THE HEECKEREN FAMILY COMES FROM HOLLAND BUT IT'S THE OLDEST NOBLE FAMILY
THE PROCESS IS DIFFICULT BUT WITH MONEY AND POWER IT CAN BE CARRIED THROUGH
WE WILL ASK YOUR FATHER
YOUR BODY IS STRONG FROM YOUR TRAINING IN THE ARMY AND YOU HAVE AN ANIMAL PERCEPTION
I THINK THAT YOU ALSO HAVE A POLITICAL SENSE TO WEATHER THE STORM OF NEGOTIATIONS
BUT...
IF YOU LEARN THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF POLITICS AND PERSEVERANCE BY BEING BY MY SIDE
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN POLITICAL OR MILITARY AFFAIRS
IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN AN APPROPRIATE MARRIAGE FOR YOU AND THE HEECKEREN FAMILY—
IT WILL BE PERFECT
HEECKEREN!

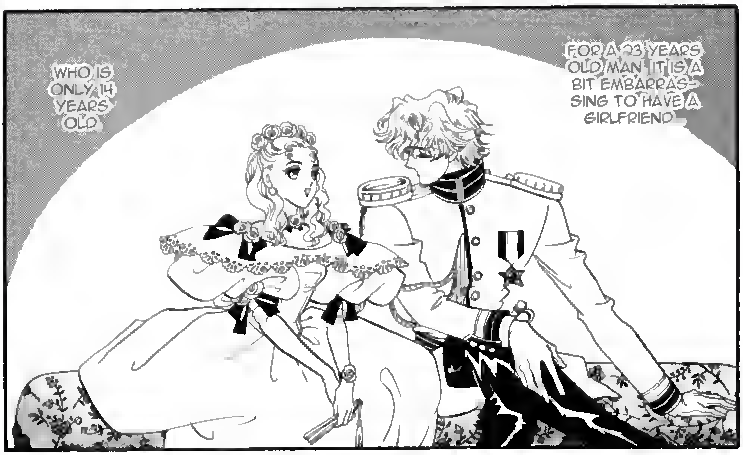
MINISTER NESSELRODE
HE HE HE
YOU BROUGHT SOMEONE ELSE ALONG!
OH, IT'S SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGES D'ANTHES
Daddy
I WANT TO INTRODUCE MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER TO YOU
Nice to meet you.
SHE IS VICTORIA
EVER SINCE SHE SAW YOU AT THE HORSE-RIDING ATHLETIC MEET SHE HAS BEEN PESTERING ME INTO INTRODUCING HER TO YOU.
IT'S STILL EARLY FOR HER TO BE INTRODUCED TO HIGH SOCIETY, SHE IS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD, BUT TONIGHT I BROUGHT HER ALONG SPECIALLY
TO GET MARRIED...
TO THIS GIRL?

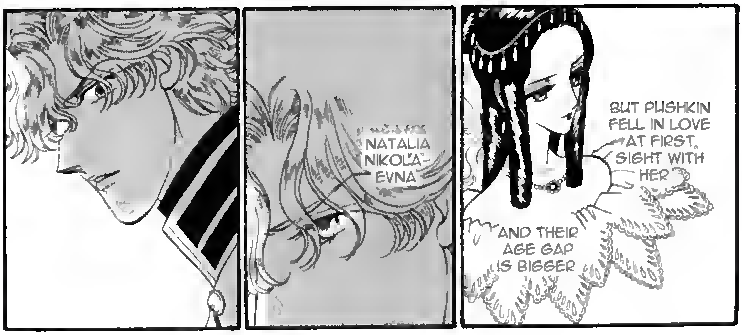
MAYBE IT'S INEVITABLE TO TAKE A SHORTCUT...

IF I'M NOT BLESSED WITH NAPOLEON'S FORTUNE AND TALENT...

IT'S CERTAINLY THE PATH TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

TO BE ADOPTED AND GET MARRIED WITH AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON IS TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE





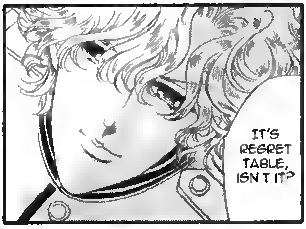
!
!
MRS. PUSHKIN
TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Peeks
YES
I'M GLAD
BARON D'ANTHES,
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE

WE HAVE JUST MET
WE DON'T HAVE SUCH A RELATIONSHIP...
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MINISTER NESSELRODE
WHAT AM I DOING MAKING EXCUSES?
WHO
I'M HIS FIANCEE
VICTORIA KARLOVNA
PIA...
HOW CUTE
I WILL BRING A SWEET DRINK FOR YOU.
AH... BARON?
BARON D'ANTHES?
EKATERINA
COUNT NESSELRODE...
EH
WE ARE SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU
LET'S GO, EKATERINA
EXCUSE US, BARON

IT'S FUN JUST TO TALK WITH HIM A LITTLE BIT.
I DON'T MIND IT.
NATALIA WHY ARE YOU MAD?
SUDDENLY
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL BAD
HE WANTS TO GET FRIENDLY WITH THE DAUGHTER OF AN INFLUENTIAL MAN
HE IS THAT KIND OF PERSON!!
WHAT IS IT?
EKATERINA
EKATERINA CAN DEAL WITH THIS LIKE AN ADULT
IF IT WERE ME I WOULD BE MAD AS HELL
MRS PUSHKIN!

NOW THAT WE FINALLY MET AGAIN, YOU ADOPT SUCH AN ATTITUDE
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT OUR LAST CONVERSATION?
BARON D'ANTHES
THE "CANCELLATION OF OUR FRIENDSHIP"

I WITHDRAW MY WORDS
YOU ARE A FRIEND


IT'S REGRET TABLE, ISN'T IT?

WILL THIS DO?
WHAT A MEAN WAY TO SAY IT
DO YOU ENJOY HURTING ME?
YOU ARE A REALLY COLD PERSON
Sniffle

YOU ARE THE WORST.
NATALIA
OH NO, I'M CRYING.
!?

NATALIA
EH?
I HATE YOU!
!
THUD
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR FRIVOLOUS TALK, NOR YOUR SARCASM!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR EXTREMELY HANDSOME FACE!!
WHY AM I SO CONFUSED?
DON'T LOOK BACK
MRS. PUSHKIN?
NATALIA
AH

YOU ARE CRYING, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?
NATALIA!!
YOU ARE WRO...
MRS PUSHKIN
!
SO I REALLY MADE YOU CRY...
YOU?
take off

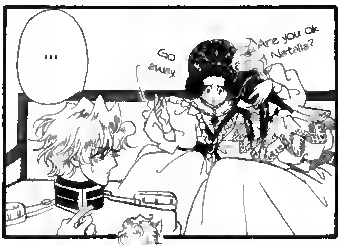
SASHA?
IT CAN'T BE—
SASHA, YOU ARE WRONG!
Clench
IT CAN'T BE—
I CHA-LLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.

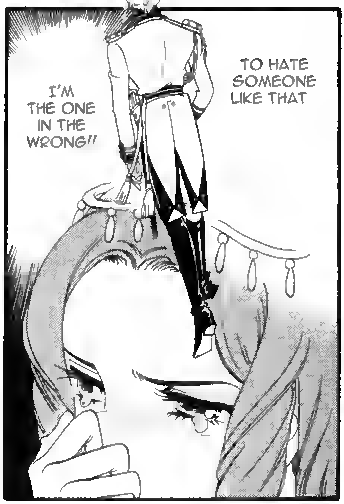
PLEASE, STOP!
SASHA, PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME!
DON'T ACCEPT IT, BARON!
Grabe
DANCE WITH ME!!
EKATE
WOMEN DON'T ASK FOR A DANCE
BUT
I KNOW, WE ACCEPT THE OFFER
TONIGHT...
IT'S A BALL!!

I DON'T DANCE AT THE COURT BALLS
WEARING SUCH CLOTHES
YES, I KNOW
BUT I DIDN'T WANT A FIGHT

BARON D'ANTHES, PLEASE GO QUICKLY TO ASK A DANCE TO NES-SELRODE'S DAUGHTER!
SHE IS THAT WAY

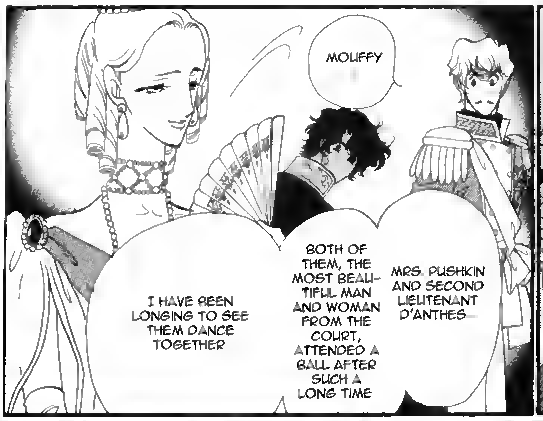
MR PUSH-KIN, COME HERE


...
Go away
Are you ok Natalie?


I'M THE ONE IN THE WRONG!!
TO HATE SOMEONE LIKE THAT

WE DON'T SUIT, I KNOW
IT'S ONLY MY UNREQUITED LOVE
YOU AND BARON D'ANTHES?
NATALIA DID IT FOR MY SAKE
SHE WAS MEDIATING BETWEEN BARON D'ANTHES AND ME
I'M SORRY
SO DON'T MISUNDERSTAND THIS
AS A SHY GIRL IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET CLOSE TO BARON D'ANTHES...
NATALIA FELT PITY FOR ME
FOR MAKING YOU SAY SUCH A CONFESSION...
ALEXANDER SERGEEVICH PUSHKIN, COME HERE
BENKENDORF

PUSHKIN
YOU HAVEN'T THANKED THE TSAR FOR THE FURLOUGH MATTER YET.
I, AS THE MONARCH, DID SOMETHING FOR YOU
I WASN'T EXPECTING A TOKEN OF YOUR GRATITUDE...
HOWEVER THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE AS A COMPENSATION.
HE WANTS ME TO DO IT?
IT WOULD BE A GREAT HONOUR.
I WISH YOU TO ALLOW ME A DANCE WITH NATALIA NIKOLAEVNA

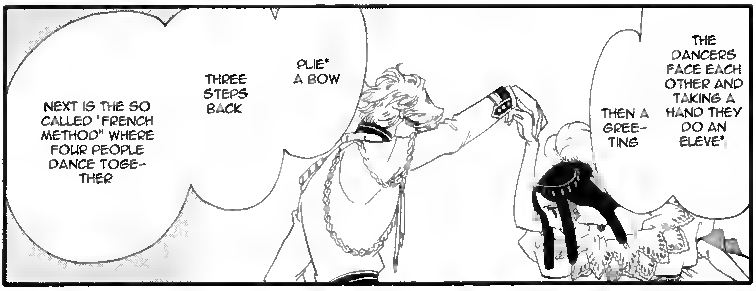

MOLIFFY
I HAVE BEEN LONGING TO SEE THEM DANCE TOGETHER
BOTH OF THEM, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAN AND WOMAN FROM THE COURT, ATTENDED A BALL AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME
MRS. PUSHKIN AND SECOND LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES—
laughs
DEAR

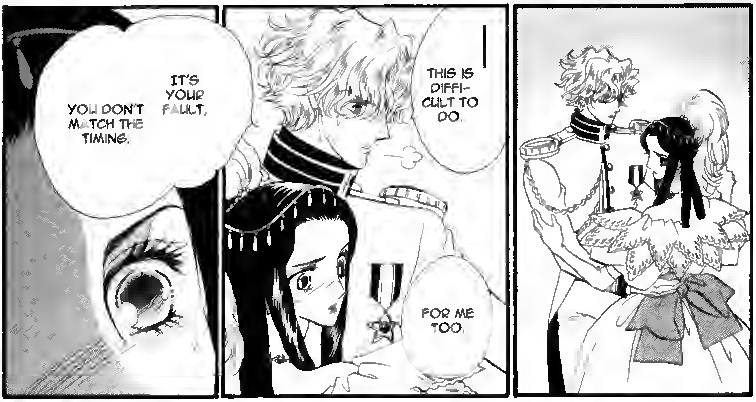
I HAVEN'T DANCED IT
It's something new
WHAT ABOUT YOU AUNT?
I ONLY SAW IT ONCE, A MONTH AGO
MAYBE I THINK IT'S A FRENCH STYLE PATTERN
EVEN THOUGH YOU ASK ME—
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE IT
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF I'M THE LEAD?
TO DANCE WITH BARON D'ANTHES AND THEIR MAJESTIES?
THE NEW QUADRILLE YOU SAID

*QUADRILLE: A DANCE PERFORMED BY FOUR COUPLES IN A SQUARE FORMATION

I WAS TOLD BY THE EMPRESS
THAT THE QUADRILLE WILL START AT MIDNIGHT
I WILL BE HERE IN 30 MINUTES
THEN I.
WAIT A MOMENT
BARON D'ANTHES
!
UNTIL MIDNIGHT
I WISH YOU TO TEACH NATALIA THE NEW QUADRILLE
SASHA
IF IT'S ABOUT THE DUEL WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER
I WITHDRAW IT
I MISUNDERSTOOD
PLEASE, ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES
AND

IF HER HUSBAND GIVES ME PERMIS-SION...
PLEASE!
IT'S NOT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT,
YOU ONLY HAVE TO ADD A NEW STEP MIDWAY
IT'S LIKE THE OLD QUADRILLE BUT IT CHANGES AT THE FIFTH PART
THE CHANGES TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND AND FINAL PARTS


NEXT IS THE SO CALLED "FRENCH METHOD" WHERE FOUR PEOPLE DANCE TOGE-THER
THREE STEPS BACK
PLIE* A BOW
THEN A GREE-TING
THE DANCERS FACE EACH OTHER AND TAKING A HAND THEY DO AN ELEVE*



YOU HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF ACCEPTING OR MEETING WITH ME.
PERHAPS YOU ARE SHUTTING YOUR STUB-BORN HEART TO ME ONLY.
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T LOOK ME IN THE EYE
I ALWAYS ENJOY DANCING
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY
WHY IS IT MY FAULT?

*ELEVE: DANCE MOVEMENT: TO RISE DIRECTLY TO DEMI OR POINTE FROM FLAT FEET ALL THE WAY TO THE BALLS OF THE FEET
*PLIE: A SMOOTH AND CONTINUOUS BENDING OF THE KNEES

IN A DANCE TWO PERSON'S HEARTS MEET
IF THEY MOVE AT THE SAME TIME IN THE SAME DIRECTION IT'S MUCH EASIER
YOU ARE MOVING ON YOUR OWN, IGNORING ME
THAT'S WHY WE COLLIDE WITH EACH OTHER
BUT
IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY THAT
WHAT IS IT? SPEAK FRANKLY
I CAN FEEL IT COMING OUT FROM YOUR BODY—
SOMETHING OFFENSIVE
SO I—
I FEEL I WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEND MYSELF
IT'S MIDNIGHT
EVERYBODY,
THE QUADRILLE LEAD BY THE TSAR IS GOING TO START!!
Blah
Blah
Blah
It's the most beautiful couple.
Look, Georges D'Anthès is going to dance with Mrs. Pushkin.

EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT THE IDEA
I SEE
FIRST LET'S START FROM THE RUDIMENTS,
LET'S PRACTICE FEELING EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR HANDS.
GRIPS
WE ARE DANCING WITH THEIR MAJESTIES, WE ARE THE FOCUS OF ALL GLANCES.
I DON'T WANT TO COMMIT A BLUNDER.
THIS SORT OF THING AGAIN...
I'M THAT TYPE OF PERSON,
I WANT TO BE ACCEPTED

JUST AS IT IS?
TO ACCEPT
HIM?
"FEELING EACH OTHER
THROUGH OUR HANDS"

OPENING
MY HEART
SOFTLY
GENTLY
CONNEC-TING OUR HEARTS

HONESTLY...

IT SEEMS THAT THE TSAR WHISPERED SOMETHING TO ME
...you
SHE EXTENDS HER HAND
Offers
BEFORE I OFFER MY HAND

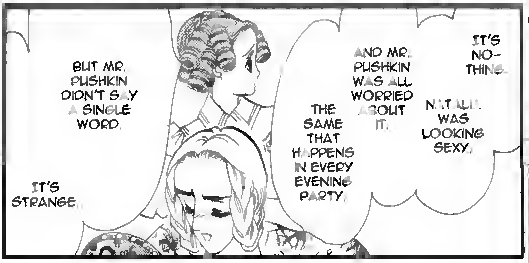
ARE I DOING IT NOW
THOSE EYES, THAT DION'T WANT TO LOOK AT ME BEFORE
HER SHOULDERS
EVERYTHING FEELS SO NATURAL
THE WAY SHE TURNS HER HIPS
THE STEPS ARE BECOMING FASTER,
THE TURNINGS ARE BIGGER,
THE MUSIC IS REACHING THE GALLOP*

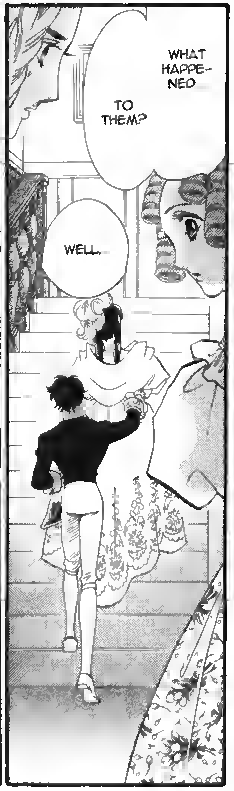
*GALLOP IT'S THE QUADRILLE'S FINALE IT HAS A FASTER TEMPO

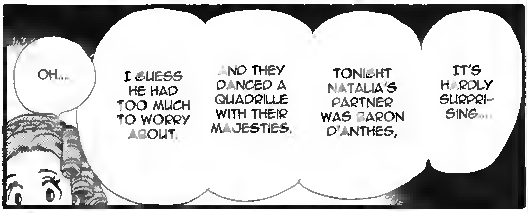
SMILE.
SUCH A BRILLIANT...

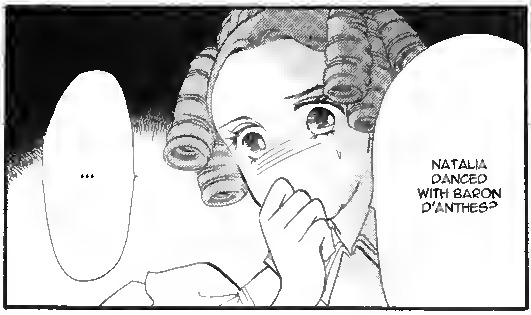
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle

WELCOME
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AT SUCH A LATE HOUR ALEXANDRA?
I WAS READING A BOOK.
I COULDN'T SLEEP BECAUSE OF THE WHITE NIGHTS


IT'S NOTHING.
AND MR. PUSHKIN WAS ALL WORRIED ABOUT IT.
NATALIE WAS LOOKING SEXY.
THE SAME THAT HAPPENS IN EVERY EVENING PARTY.
BUT MR. PUSHKIN DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD.
IT'S STRANGE.


WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
WELL...


OH...
I GUESS HE HAD TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.
AND THEY DANCED A QUADRILLE WITH THEIR MAJESTIES.
TONIGHT NATALIA'S PARTNER WAS BARON D'ANTHES.
IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING...


...
NATALIA DANCED WITH BARON D'ANTHES?

THE LAST TUNE
IS TURNING ROUND AND ROUND IN MY HEAD
I CAN'T GET IT OUT
I'M TIRED
COME HERE

BUT...
NATALIA...
...LIA...

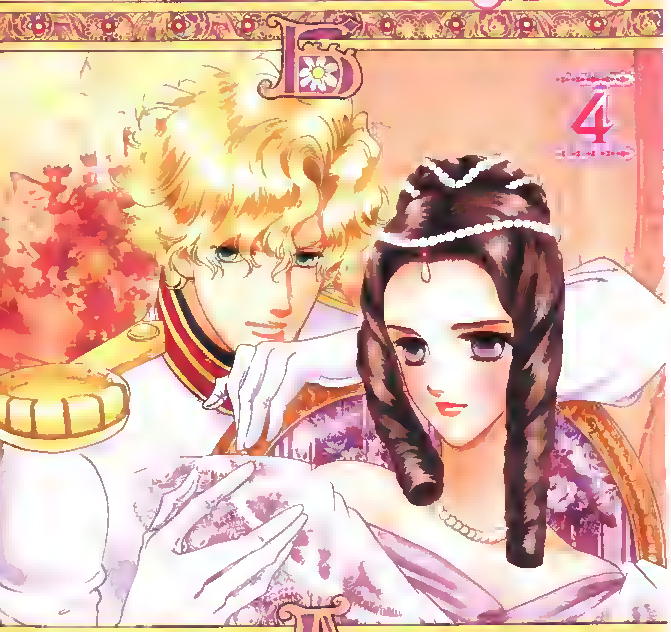
NATALIA,
OPEN YOUR EYES
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
TURN TOWARD HERE.
LOOK AT ME, NATALIA.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
I'M LOOKING AT YOU, SASHA
TEARS ARE FALLING ON THEIR OWN.

FLOWER COMICS

flowersフラワーコミックス

ブロンズの天使



さいとうちほ

Chiho Saito Presents

FLOWER COMICS

ブロンズの天使

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さいとうちほ

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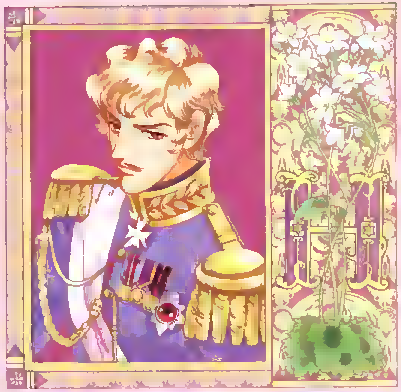
定価：本体390円＋税

雑誌 46012-34 小学館



プーシキンとともに
宮廷舞踏会に出席した
ナターリアは、ダンテスと
組んで踊ることになった。
はじめはダンテスに対し
警戒心を抱いていた彼女だが、
しだいに心を通い
あわせるようになる。
それは、
天才詩人の妻ナターリアと
孤独な異邦人ダンテスの
許されぬ愛のはじまり!!

flowers
フラワーコミックス